

City of Deer Park **Messenger**

Spring 2015

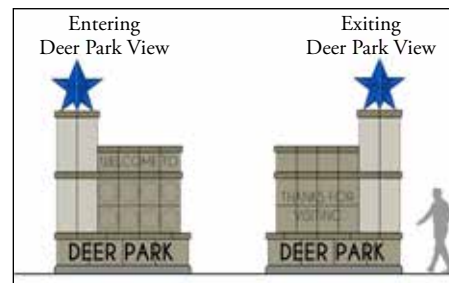
Deer Park Gateway Project

The groundbreaking ceremony for the Deer Park Gateway project was held on November 6, 2014. The Deer Park Gateway, which will serve as the entrance to the city, is part of a larger beautification initiative being coordinated by the San Jacinto Texas Historic District and the Economic Alliance Houston Port Region.

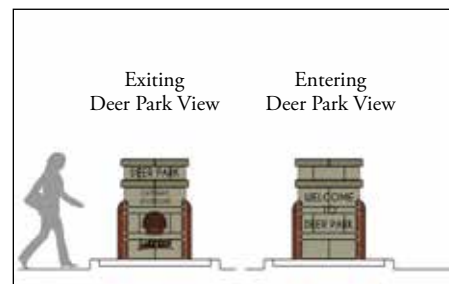
The project features two locations at opposite ends of Deer Park. At the north end, 2 large monuments will flank Center St. at Railroad St. and mark the entrance into Deer Park off of State Highway 225. A smaller monument acknowledging the financial donations to the project from Shell and Lubrizol will be constructed in the Center St. median between the 2 large monuments. In addition, a moderately-sized gateway monument will be erected at the southern end of Center St. in Deer Park near Spencer Highway.

At the groundbreaking ceremony, Mayor Jerry Mouton stated, "The Gateway project will serve as an important way for visitors and residents to connect to our history and as a catalyst for the continued beautification of Center Street." The Mayor then added, "The project would not have been possible without the generous support of our industry partners and the Economic Alliance," referring to a \$200,000 donation from Shell Deer Park, a \$50,000 donation from Lubrizol, a \$73,000 grant from the Economic

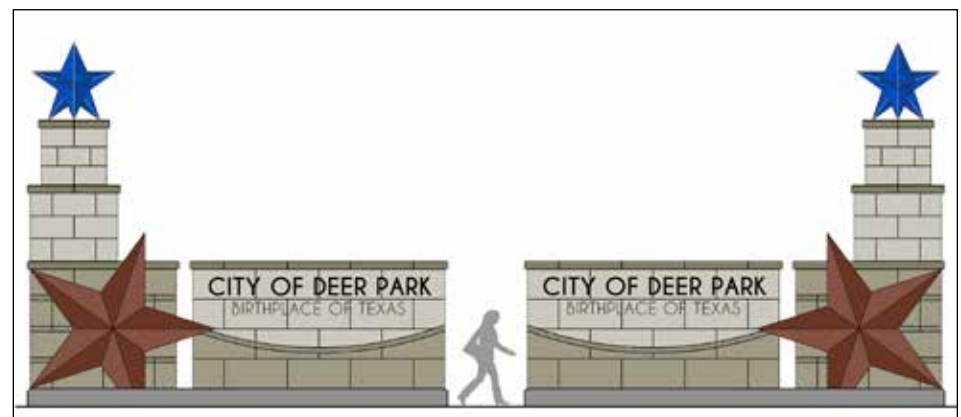
Alliance, and a \$25,000 Downtown Public Spaces Improvement Grant from the Houston-Galveston Area Council. The project is expected to be completed this spring.



Civic Club Monument (Above) - Located at south end of Deer Park in the Center Street median near Spencer Highway.



Donor Monument (Left) - Located at north end of Deer Park in the Center Street median near Railroad Street.



Gateway Monument (Above) - Located at north end of Deer Park at Center Street and Railroad Street, marking the main entrance to the city off of State Highway 225.



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General Information

Elected Officials

Jerry Mouton, Jr.	Mayor
Sherry Garrison	Council Member - Position 1
Thane Harrison	Council Member - Position 2
Chris Richey	Council Member - Position 3
Bill Patterson	Council Member - Position 4
Ron Martin	Council Member - Position 5
Rae A. Sinor	Council Member - Position 6

Contact the Mayor and members of City Council by e-mail at cityhall@deerparktx.org.

Department Directors

James J. Stokes	City Manager
Gary M. Jackson	Assistant City Manager
Sandra Watkins	City Secretary
Donna Todd	Director, Finance
Bill Philibert	Director, Human Resources
Bill Pedersen	Director, Public Works
Scott E. Swigert	Director, Parks and Recreation
Rebecca Pool	Director, Library
Robert Hemminger	Director, Emergency Services
Greg Grigg	Chief of Police
Linda McHone	Director, Information Technology

Other Appointed Officials

Jim Fox	City Attorney
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City Facilities

Animal Shelter	281-478-7274	4213 Luella
Art Park Players Dinner Theatre	281-478-7288	1302 Center
Avon Recreation Center	281-478-7216	601 W. 8 th Street
Battleground Golf Course	281-478-2080	1600 Georgia
City Hall	281-479-2394	710 E. San Augustine
Claude Burgess Recreation Center	281-478-2060	4200 Kalwick
Community Center	281-478-2050	610 E. San Augustine
Fire Station #1	281-478-2043	1302 Center
Fire Station #2	281-478-7282	711 E. Pasadena Blvd.
Fire Station #3	281-478-7281	2211 East X
Jimmy Burke Activity Center	281-478-2049	500 W. 13 th Street
Kingsdale Center	281-478-7215	2218 Kingsdale
Maxwell Adult Center	281-478-7276	1201 Center
Municipal Court	281-478-7238	1302 Center
Police Station	281-479-1511	2911 Center
Public Library	281-478-7208	3009 Center
Swimming Pool	281-478-2055	610 E. San Augustine
Transfer Station	281-478-7213	610 Underwood

The *Messenger* is a quarterly newsletter published by the City of Deer Park, 710 E. San Augustine, Deer Park, Texas 77536. Go to www.deerparktx.gov to read the newsletter online or to sign up for *Notify Me* so you can receive the latest edition of the Messenger by e-mail as soon as it is available.

March

- 2 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 3 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 7 Siren Test 12pm
- 14 Siren Test 12pm
- 16 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 17 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 21 Siren Test 12pm
- 24 LEPC Meeting - 11am
- 28 Siren Test 12pm

April

- 3 City Services Closed - Good Friday
- 4 Siren Test 12pm
- 6 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 7 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 11 Siren Test 12pm
- 18 Siren Test 12pm
- 20 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 21 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 25 Siren Test 12pm
- 28 LEPC Meeting - 11am

May

- 2 Siren Test 12pm
- 4 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 5 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 9 Siren Test 12pm
- 16 Siren Test 12pm
- 18 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 7:30pm
- 19 City Council Meeting - 7:30pm
- 23 Siren Test 12pm
- 25 City Services Closed - Memorial Day
- 26 LEPC Meeting - 11am
- 30 Siren Test 12pm



1600 Georgia Ave.

www.battlegroundgolfcourse.com

Golf Course 281-478-2080

Republic Grill 281-478-2089

Fire Department

Spring Safety Checklist

Around the House

- Be sure your address numbers are visible from the street.
- Check outdoor electrical outlets and other electrical appliances.
- Maintain a clear “fire zone” of 10 feet around structures.
- Remove yard debris and trash from carports and garages.
- Keep 100 feet of garden hose with an attached nozzle connected and ready to use.
- Allow power equipment to cool for approximately 30 minutes before storing inside.
- Properly store fuels, paints, and pool and yard chemicals.
- Check fuel containers for leaks.
- Open burning is not allowed in Deer Park. Open burning includes the burning of household yard waste, as well as the burning of trees, stumps, shrubbery, and other natural vegetation to clear land.

In the House

- Test your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors every month. Replace batteries promptly when needed.
- Inspect your fire extinguishers monthly.
- Check for overloaded or damaged extension cords. Replace if needed.
- Build an emergency preparedness kit in case of a power outage or other emergency.
- Practice your family’s fire escape plan.
- Inspect windows to ensure they open and close properly. They may be used as an exit in an emergency.
- Properly store household chemicals. Do not mix cleaning agents.

- Recycle old newspapers, magazines, and junk mail. These items tend to pile up and can greatly contribute to the severity and spread of a fire.
- Inspect and clean the filters above the stove.
- Move the refrigerator so you can dust or vacuum the coils.
- Keep the stairway and landing clear for safe evacuation.

Grill Safety

- Always grill outdoors in well ventilated areas. Using grills indoors or in enclosed spaces is not only a fire hazard, but it exposes occupants to toxic gases and potential asphyxiation.
- Locate the grill away from combustible objects. Buildings, fences, deck railings, and landscaping can easily ignite.
- Get your grill cleaned and serviced. Check all propane tanks and lines for leaks and damage.
- Never leave a lit grill unattended.
- Use long-handled grilling utensils and heat resistant oven mitts to avoid exposure burns from heat and flames.
- Periodically remove grease build up in catch trays to prevent it from igniting.

Recreational Vehicle Safety

Travel trailer and motorhome owners can reduce the risk of fire by following some simple safety tips.

Before Leaving Home

- Be sure the vehicle has working smoke alarms. Test the alarms before you leave and at least once a week during your trip.
- Plan and practice an escape route. Make sure exits are not blocked.
- Install an ABC-rated fire extin-

guisher near each exit and know how to use it.

Before Operating the Stove or Oven

- Open overhead vents and windows, or turn on exhaust fans to reduce the danger of asphyxiation. Cooking appliances need fresh air flow for safe operation.
- Keep combustible items, such as curtains or paper products, away from the stove.
- Cooking appliances should never be used for comfort heating.

What To Do If You Smell Gas

- Immediately extinguish all open flames, including pilot lights.
- Do not operate electrical switches. Turning a switch on or off may cause an explosion.
- Shut off the gas supply.
- Open the doors, windows, and vents to the vehicle. Exit the vehicle as soon as possible.
- Have the gas system inspected and repaired before using again.

For more information, go to www.deerparktx.gov/firemarshal.

Emergency Alerts



Deer Park residents are encouraged to register for the city’s emergency notification service. To add your contact information to the database, call 281-479-2394 or go to www.deerparktx.gov/oem, click on the Blackboard Connect icon, and then click on the one-step notification sign up icon.

Fire Department

Can We Find You?

In an emergency, when every second counts, Fire and EMS responders must be able to quickly and easily identify where you are located, day or night. Emergency responders could have trouble identifying your home if the address numbers posted are not visible or are missing, painted street markers are faded, or the numbers on the mailboxes are gone. The Fire Dept. strongly encourages residents to ensure that your address numbers are clearly visible from the street. Consider having your address number painted on the curb by your mailbox, on your mailbox, or posted on the front of your house in reflective numbers. It is an inexpensive way to help emergency responders find you when you need it most.



Become a Member

The Deer Park Volunteer Fire Department is accepting applications for volunteer firefighters and EMS providers. We are looking for 20 to 30 individuals to begin with the academy this March. Candidates with prior fire or EMS training may be eligible for the fast track program. We offer a state pension program to all members and pay per call/shift stipends. Go to www.dpvfd.org for more information.

Texas Firefighter of the Year

David Wade, a member of the Deer Park Volunteer Fire Dept. (DPVFD), received the prestigious 2014 Firefighter of the Year Award for the State of Texas at the 2014

State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association (SFFMA) Annual Training Conference and Convention in Lubbock, Texas.

David was selected by a committee appointed by the SFFMA, Texas' oldest and largest fire association. He was nominated by Fire Chief Greg Bridges for the contributions he has made to the DPVFD and Texas fire and emergency services during his 34 years of dedicated service. The criteria for nominations include leadership abilities, dedication to training and/or introduction of new and innovative training methods, involvement in the SFFMA (state and district levels), community involvement (church and civic), acts of heroism in a fire-related act or act of bravery, accomplishments and awards received, and certifications held.

David currently serves on several state level fire and emergency services committees, as well as on the Board of Directors for the Fire Museum of Texas in Beaumont. He is the 2015 Channel Industries Mutual Aid (CIMA) Chairman and the Chairman of the SFFMA Health and Safety Committee. David has served on the SFFMA Executive Board for 6 years and was association president in 2013.

David retired from DuPont in 2003 after 25 years in operations and emergency response. He spent many of those years as an Emergency Response Shift Commander. David became Harris County's 1st Industrial Liaison in December of 2004 and is assigned to the Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management under the direction of Harris

County Judge Ed Emmett. As the Industrial Liaison, he partners with the petrochemical industry along the nation's second largest port, as well as other industries in Harris County, to assist with all-hazards emergency response, planning, security, and emergency communications during large scale incidents.

He has earned a multitude of awards over his career, including Rookie of the Year, the Odis Chapell Award, President's Award, Chief's Award, Rotary Club Firefighter of the Month, 2013 American Legion DPVFD Fire Fighter of the Year, 2013 Harris County Fire Fighters' Association Fire Fighter of the Year, and 2014 SFFMA Gulf Coast District Fire Fighter of the Year.

Prescription Program



The City of Deer Park, in collaboration with the National

League of Cities, offers a prescription discount card program that may save residents an average of 20% off the regular retail price of prescription drugs at participating pharmacies. The card is free to all Deer Park residents, regardless of age, income, or existing health insurance. For more information, call 888-620-1749 toll free or go to www.deerparktx.gov, hover over *Our Community*, and click on *Prescription Discount Card Program*.

Police Department



DPPD on Facebook

On October 3, 2014, the Deer Park Police Dept. joined the growing number of police departments around the world in using social media to communicate with the general public. An introduction to the department's Facebook page from Police Chief Greg Grigg was the 1st post. Facebook provides another way for the police department to easily communicate and connect with the general public. Posts range from human interest stories, crime trends, departmental programs, promotions, to an occasional Throw-back Thursday. 'Like' our page at <https://www.facebook.com/deerparktx.police> to become a part of our Facebook family.

Bias Based/Racial Profiling

Bias based/racial profiling is defined as a law enforcement-initiated act based solely upon an individual's race, ethnicity, or national origin, or on the basis of other criteria rather than upon the individual's behavior, activity, or other lawful reason. Deer Park Police Officers are strictly prohibited from engaging in bias based/racial profiling. Citizens who believe they have been the subject of bias based/racial profiling may file a complaint with any employee of the Deer Park Police Dept. or call the DPPD Administrative Services Bureau at 281-930-2103.



Officers Memorial Service

The 15th Annual Peace Officers Memorial Service is scheduled for 4pm on May 15 at the Municipal Court and Theatre Building. We will honor those in law enforcement who lost their lives in the line of duty. This event is in recognition of National Police Week, May 10-16.

Purchasing an Alarm System

There are a few things you should keep in mind before purchasing an alarm system for your home.

- Determine your needs and what you can afford.
- Do your research. Contact the local Better Business Bureau (www.bbb.org), ConsumerAffairs (www.consumeraffairs.com), or the Texas Private Security Bureau (www.txdps.state.tx.us/rsd/psb) for information on the company you are considering using. These offices maintain records of complaints and can provide you with valuable information.
- Contact the DPPD Alarm Coordinator regarding an alarm permit and more information on the city's alarm ordinance. Know what you will be responsible for and what will be required of the alarm company you select.
- Fully understand the terms of the agreement and read the fine print before you sign a contract. Anything that is verbally promised to you is not enforce-

able unless it is written in the contract.

- Obtain a written quote from 2 or 3 different alarm companies. Compare price, system features, monitoring terms and conditions, including false alarm reduction plans.
- Ask questions. Do you know the difference between a local and a monitored alarm system? Should I purchase or lease the alarm system? Does the alarm company do its own monitoring or outsource to a third party monitoring company?

If an alarm system solicitor comes to your door, ask them to show you his or her state issued pocket card with photo and expiration date. A license is required for all security companies and the employees who sell and install the systems. If they are licensed, then they have a pocket card.

The False Alarm Reduction Association (FARA) has additional consumer tips and information at www.faraonline.org.

For questions, contact Officer Merv Howard at 281-930-2144 or mhoward@deerparktx.org. Go to www.deerparktx.gov/police and click on Alarm Coordinator under Neighborhood Services in the Department Organization tab to obtain an alarm permit application and other related information. Remember, operation of an alarm system without a valid permit is a violation of city ordinance and subjects you to a fine.

Economic Development

Business News

- If you haven't already done so, stop by the College Park Shopping Center at 8015 Spencer Highway to check out the new businesses in town: Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches, Smashburger, and Smoothie King!
- Pizza Bella is open at 3310 Center St. (former location of Honey Bee Ham & Deli) offering New York-style pizza, Italian dishes, and a salad bar.
- Local resident, Jami Quinn, has opened Rebels-n-Pinks at 1305 W. Pasadena Blvd. (the former location of Kallie Kouture Resale). The store features trendy styles for tweens and teens, including airbrushed hats, tees, and spirit items.
- Andrea Pressley is the owner of

Bath Ever After, a home-based business featuring handcrafted lotion bars, soaps, and bath fizzies that your skin will love. The products are available at The Health Nut (2606 Center St.) or www.batheverafter.com.

- B.J. Smith is the owner of home-based business, Willow Tree Cookies. She can create just about any shape or design for your special occasion. To view a sample of B.J.'s wonderful creations, go to www.willowtreecookies.com or call 281-731-2261.
- Mathnasium is open at 3717 Center St. The tutoring center provides children of all ages with the confidence, critical thinking skills, and mathematical ability to last a lifetime. To register your child, go to www.mathnasium.com or call 281-542-9139.

mathnasium.com or call 281-542-9139.

- Congratulations to The Brisket House, 3217 Center St., for being voted one of the best barbecue restaurants in Texas by the Texas BBQ Posse in the Dallas Morning News.
- Congratulations to Deer Park Independent School District on being named #6 on Houston Chronicle's list of Top Workplaces in Houston.
- A Deer Park man recently purchased a \$1 million Powerball winning ticket from Tobacco Stop, 3408 Center St. (Foodtown parking lot).

For questions, contact Debbie Westbeld, Economic Development Administrator, at 281-478-2042 or go to www.deerparktx.gov/ed.

Public Works

Not in the Storm Drain!

Soil is one of our most common pollutants. Bare dirt can erode during rainfall and travel to our creeks, clogging waterways, damaging fish gills, and carrying chemicals with it. There are a few simple ways to keep dirt and mulch out of the storm drain.

- Plant, sod, or mulch areas that are bare soil.
- Store sand, dirt, and mulch on natural ground or grassy areas, not in your driveway.
- Cover your pile of sand, dirt, and mulch with a tarp when it rains.
- Limit erosion by using a silt fence or mulch socks during construction or landscaping projects.

Resident Reminders

High Grass

According to the city's ordinance, the grass on residential properties shall not exceed 6 inches in height. When mowing the grass on your property, please be sure to remove all grass clippings out of the street and sidewalk. Do not blow the grass clippings into the storm drain. Keeping your front yard and backyard mowed and free from rubbish or objectionable material will help deter insects and rodents.



- If you mulch a sloped area, make sure to contain any loose materials with edging so a heavy rain doesn't wash it away.

For more information, go to www.deerparktx.gov/publicworks.



Public Works



Spring Clean Your Yard

Typically, when temperatures start to warm up, we start spring cleaning our yards. Everyone begins removing the burlap from trees and shrubs, and pruning away dead branches. March is a good time to thin out crowded beds and do some transplanting to fill in bare spots. It is also the perfect time to rake and gather dead leaves, clippings, and other plant material. The best way to dispose of this dead plant material is to compost it. Dump collected leaves, plant material, and last season's mulch into your compost pile. You can make a simple 3 ft. x 3 ft. x 3 ft. cube with wire fencing like the one pictured above. Keep the pile as moist as a wrung out sponge, and aerate it with a pitchfork every 2 weeks. If you aren't into composting your plant material, you can always bag the small material and place it with your normal household trash by the curb. Larger items, such as tree limbs should be cut into 4-foot lengths and have a diameter of 6 inches or less.

Mosquito Control

As spring brings warmer days, you'll notice mosquitoes becoming more active. Nothing takes the

fun out of an evening outdoors like bloodthirsty mosquitoes. In addition to inflicting an irritating bite, mosquitoes can transmit diseases. Mosquitoes require water to breed. They lay eggs in stagnant or slow moving water, moist soil, leaf litter, or any area that is likely to collect water. Be diligent about getting rid of standing water around your property. Drill holes in the bottom, not the sides, of garbage cans and recycling containers stored outdoors. Keep the gutters unclogged and clean. Also, make sure your downspouts drain properly and do not create puddles in the drainage area. Keep swimming pools cleaned and chlorinated, even when not in use. Ornamental ponds should be aerated to keep water moving and discourage mosquitoes from laying eggs. Keep your property clean of items that can hold water, including discarded aluminum cans and tires.



The city uses an EPA approved application to spray for mosquitoes Monday through Thursday during mosquito season. In addition to spraying, the city treats drainage ditches and the storm sewer system (areas of standing water) with EPA approved Altosid Briquets. Controlling the mosquito population by killing mosquito larvae before they develop into adult mosquitoes is the most effective approach.

Local Flood Hazard

Because Harris County is located near the Gulf of Mexico and along the coastal plain of southeast Texas,

it is subject to the natural overflow of land from intense local thunderstorms, general storms extending over periods of several days, and torrential rainfall associated with tropical events. The potential for extreme rainfall events, coupled with flat topography and poorly draining soils, contribute to the frequent occurrence of flooding in our county. Since 1900, Harris County has had 33 major flooding events, with 10 of those occurring since 1980.

You are encouraged to find out if your home is in a mapped floodplain so you can determine your potential risk of flooding from a bayou or creek overflow. Keep in mind that structures located outside of a floodplain are still at risk for flooding in Harris County. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs or floodplain maps) do not identify all sources of flooding. FIRMs do not consider risk associated with street flooding caused by roadside ditches and storm sewers exceeding their capacity or flooding caused by sheet flow, which is stormwater traveling over land to reach the bayous. In addition, of the more than 2,500 miles of bayous and creeks in Harris County, only about half have been studied for the purpose of floodplain identification and delineation. There is a possibility that there are structures in a floodplain that have not been mapped yet. FIRMs also do not show flooding risks from flooding events that exceed the magnitude of a 0.2 percent (500-year) flood, such as Tropical Storm Allison. In 2001, Tropical Storm Allison dropped 28.5 inches of rain in 12 hours in some areas of Har-

Public Works

ris county. Sixty-five percent of the area that flooded during Allison was not in a mapped floodplain.

Many property owners who find they are not located in a mapped floodplain mistakenly believe that they do not need flood insurance. Be aware that just an inch of water inside a home can cause thousands of dollars in damages. Repaying a \$50,000 disaster loan at a 4 percent interest rate will cost an average of \$240 a month for about 30 years, while an average flood insurance premium costs about \$400 per year for about \$100,000 of coverage. Don't take the risk when you can protect your structure relatively inexpensively with flood insurance. Remember that homeowners insurance does not cover flooding. For more information, call an insurance agent or go to www.floodsmart.gov.

Clogged Drains & Overflows

Pouring fats, oils, and grease (FOG) down the drain can be a health hazard, cause an unwelcome clogged sink or toilet, and cost you and your city lots of money.

Blockages account for 43% of all sanitary sewer overflows. You should avoid sending any foreign material down your sewer pipes, including paper products, wood, metal, and toys. The worst items to send down the drain are, of course, fats, oils, and grease. FOG solidifies in the lines of the collection system and form large chunks that get stuck or build up on the walls of the pipes, thus narrowing the lines headed to the treatment plant. A blockage of the collection system could cause sanitary sewer overflow, in which the sewer overflows and spills into ditches, the ship channel,

and the bay. It could also cause the sewer system to backup into your yard and home. Untreated wastewater can be quite costly to clean up and can cause serious health issues for you and the surrounding community, including killing fish in our waterways.

Instead of pouring your cooking oil and grease into the sink drain, place them in a container with a tight sealing lid. Once your used grease solidifies, place it in a trash bag. Liquid oil and grease can be placed in a container, such as an old milk carton, and placed at the street curb with your normal household trash. The city will collect your used motor oil and cooking oil. For residents who compost, used cooking oil is biodegradable and can be added to your compost piles. A common misconception that can lead to the discharge of FOG into the system is running hot water and slowly pouring FOG down the drain so it does not cause a blockage. If the fats, oils, and grease make it through your lines to the main line, which is not likely because the FOG will cool too fast, the blockage will be building downstream from your connection.

Please properly dispose of FOG and do not send it into the lines of the collection system. Your cooperation can save money and prevent backups into homes.

City Projects

- *Fire Station #3 Parking Lot Expansion* - This project was awarded to T&T Construction for \$40,533.16 and was completed in the 3rd quarter of 2014.
- *Drainage Improvements to Deer*

Park Gardens Subdivision -

This project involved drainage improvements on N. Amy St., S. Amy St., and Brenda St. The project was awarded to Mar-Con Services for \$156,606 and was completed during the 4th quarter of 2014.

- *The Offsite Drainage Improvement Project* - This project involved drainage improvements and pavement replacement on E. Highline Drive. The project was awarded to Metro City Construction for \$283,260.60 and completed during the 4th quarter of 2014.
- *City Hall Parking Lot Expansion* - This project added 24 additional parking spaces behind City Hall. The project was awarded to T&T Construction for \$74,844.20 and was completed in the 1st quarter of 2015.
- *Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project for College Park Subdivisions 1 through 8 and Heritage Additions, Sections 1 & 2* - This project was awarded to PM Construction in the amount of \$1,724,755 and is expected to be completed during the 1st quarter of 2015.
- *Water Line Improvement Project* - The project involves replacing a 6-inch water line with a 12-inch water line and adding more fire hydrants. The water line replacement is along the full length of Arbor Drive. It also involves installing a new 8-inch water line from Patrick's Bayou Detention Pond to the Park Green Subdivision. This project was awarded to Metro City Construction in the amount of \$632,126 and is expected to be completed during the 1st quarter of 2015.

Public Works

- ter of 2015.
- *Sidewalk Improvement Project* - Various areas of town will receive new sidewalks and sidewalk ramps. The project was awarded to Aztec Remodeling and Landscaping for \$307,700. The project is expected to be completed during the 1st quarter of 2015.
 - *Addition to Fire Station #2* - This project involves adding bays at fire station #2. The project was awarded to Comex Corp. for \$74,000 and funded by the Deer Park Fire Control Prevention and Emergency Medical Services District Fund. The project is expected to be completed during the 1st quarter of 2015.
 - *Rehabilitation of Pasadena Blvd. Elevated Water Storage Tank* - As part of the Hurricane Ike Round 2.2 CDBG Disaster Recovery funding, and in partnership with Harris County, the elevated water storage tank located on Pasadena Blvd. is being rehabilitated inside and out. Gulf States Protective Coatings is expected to complete the project during the 1st quarter of 2015 for \$342,000.
 - *Norwood St. Reconstruction Project* - The project will take place on Norwood St. between 13th St. and 8th St., and involves replacement of the concrete pavement and sidewalks, water line, and storm sewer. The project was awarded to Mar-Con Services for \$1,354,818.10 and is expected to start construction during the 1st quarter of 2015.
 - *Traffic Signal Improvements at the Intersection of Center St. & Pasadena Blvd.* - This project will involve installing pedestrian crosswalks at the intersection of Center St. and Pasadena Blvd. The project was awarded to Traf-Tex, Inc. for \$34,909 and is expected to start construction during the 1st quarter of 2015.
 - *Water Line Pipe Bursting Project* - This project will involve replacing 3,070 linear feet of 6-inch water line through pipe bursting. This new water line will be installed on W. 1st St., W. 2nd St., W. 7th St., Dutch St., Cedar St., and Elm St. This project is made possible through the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Cooperative Purchasing Program. PM Construction and Rehab, LLC will perform the work for \$449,413 and is expected to begin construction during the 1st quarter of 2015.
 - *Replacement of 8th St. Bridge spanning the Harris County Flood Control Ditch G104-00-00* - The 8th Street bridge is near the 1st Baptist Church and the old San Jacinto Elementary. It will be replaced to allow for better drainage in surrounding neighborhoods. The estimated cost of the project is \$1,000,000 and is expected to be awarded during the 1st quarter of 2015.
 - *Deer Park Gateway Project* - This project involves installing a masonry monument within the Center St. right-of-way between Railroad Ave. and State Highway 225. The project was awarded to DT Construction for \$463,500 and is expected to be completed by the 2nd quarter of 2015.

Maxwell Center

Extended Hours for Fitness

*Monday & Friday, 7am-5pm
Tuesday & Thursday, 7am-7pm
Saturday, 7am-12pm*

The Fitness Center is now open on Saturdays, too! It is a free service for adults, ages 55 & over. Our equipment includes a recumbent bike, elliptical machine, and treadmill.

Pick & Grin Jam Session

Fridays, 3-7pm, for ages 55 & over
Join us for a free jam session! If you play an instrument, like to sing, or just want to listen, stop by the Maxwell Center every Friday afternoon. Contact Scott Lightfoot at 281-478-7276 for more information.

New Orleans Trip

*March 16-20, \$425 per person,
for ages 55 & over*

The trip includes motorcoach transportation, 4 nights lodging, meals (4 breakfast & 4 dinners), a guided tour of New Orleans and a plantation, a relaxing riverboat cruise on the Mississippi River, as well as a visit to the historic New Orleans French Quarter and the National World War II Museum. Sign up today because space is limited.

Fishing Trip

*March 21, \$150 per person,
for ages 55 & over*

Gypsy Guide Service will be taking this group out into Galveston Bay for red-fish and speckled trout fishing. Cost includes a ride from the Maxwell Center to the boat, plus the rod, reel, and bait for fishing. A fishing license is required. For more information, go to www.deerparktx.gov/parksandrec or call Scott Lightfoot at 281-478-7276.

Library News

Beginning Crochet

For ages 8 to adult

Tuesdays, 7-8pm

This free class is offered at the library for those with some or no previous knowledge. Learn at your own pace. Attend at your own convenience. Initial materials provided. Registration is not required.

Storytime programs for toddlers and preschool children incorporate books, fingerplays, songs, and activities to promote interest in reading and lifelong learning.

Toddler Storytime

For children up to 3½ years old
Wed. & Thurs., 10:15-10:45am

Through May 14

The sessions include stories and activities designed to encourage a love for books, increase attention spans, and develop basic social skills. Parents and caregivers are required to stay with the toddler to encourage them to participate. Storytime sessions will not be offered on April 15 & 16 due to the Friends of the Library Book Sale. Storytime resumes April 22.

Preschool Storytime

For ages 3½ to 6

Thursdays, 11-11:45am

Through May 14

In these sessions, children listen to stories and participate in group activities. Storytime will not be offered on April 16 due to Friends of the Library Book Sale. Storytime resumes April 23.

Family Movie

March 16, 10:30am

Join us at the library to enjoy the family friendly movie, WALL-E (rated G), and some popcorn.

Spring Book Sale

The Friends of the Deer Park Public Library's Annual Spring Book Sale is scheduled for April 15-18 during normal library hours. Members of the Friends of the Library are invited to attend the preview sale on April 14 from 5-9pm. Annual membership dues for Friends of the Library are \$5 for individuals, \$10 for families, and \$2 for senior citizens.

Friends' Annual Meeting

The Friends of the Library Spring Annual Meeting will be held on April 23 at 7pm. The meeting is free and open to the general public. The keynote speaker will be Texas author, Mike Cox. He was the Chief of Media Relations for the Texas Dept. of Public Safety and a former writer for the Austin-American Statesman. He has written more than 20 books on Texas, including *Central Texas Tales*, *Time of the Rangers: Texas Rangers from 1900 to the Present*, *Texas Disasters: True Stories of Tragedy and Survival*, and *Texas UFO Tales: from Denison 1878 to Stephenville 2008*.

Summer Reading Club

Registration starts June 4

The Summer Reading Club at the library is open to children of all ages. A brochure of guidelines and events will be available May 1.

Scholastic Book Fair

The Summer Reading Scholastic Book Fair is scheduled for June 4-13 in the library's meeting room. Anyone may browse the book fair, sponsored by the Friends of the Deer Park Library. Proceeds from the book fair provide incentive prizes for Summer Reading Club.

St. Patrick's Day Craft

For school-aged children

March 17, 2:30-3:30pm

Materials to assemble the craft will be provided to children free of charge. A craft to accommodate 2 different skill levels will be available.

Bloomin' Crazy Craft

For school-aged children

April 7, 3:30-4:30pm

Materials to assemble the Bloomin' Crazy craft will be provided to children free of charge. A craft to accommodate 2 different skill levels will be available.

Mother's Day Craft

For ages 5 to 12

May 5, 3:30-4:30pm

Materials to create a craft for Mother's Day will be provided to children free of charge. A craft to accommodate 2 different skill levels will be available.

Teen Tech

For school-aged teens

Wednesdays, 3:30-5:30pm

Teens will enjoy socializing and a little friendly competition at video gaming, board games, and card games. Free snacks are provided by the Friends of the Library. Special spring break hours on March 16 & 18 from 2 to 5pm. Teens are invited to participate in a tournament on March 18. Teen Tech is canceled on April 15 due to the Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale. Teen Tech resumes April 22.

T.A.B. Meeting

For ages 13 to 18

Join the library's Teen Advisory Board and be a part of the planning for teen programs. Discuss reading trends and make suggestions for the teen collection. Meetings are sched-

Library News

uled for the 1st Tuesday of the month, 4-5pm. Contact Robert at rzambrano@deerparktx.org or stop by the library to pick up a form.

Teen Summer Volunteers

Registration starts May 1

Teen volunteers are needed to assist staff during the Summer Reading Club program. Volunteers will work with staff and other teens starting the week of June 8 through July. Be a part of the summer fun at the library, while you make new friends and accrue volunteer credit.

Mystery Book Club meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6pm. Join other mystery readers to discuss the selected books and other mystery favorites. Registration is not required. You are welcome to come whether you have read the books or not. Go to www.deerparktx.gov/library or call 281-478-7208 for April & May mystery book selections.

March 10 - Suspense

Dark Places

by Gillian Flynn

&

The Weight of Blood

by Laura McHugh

Computer Classes

Computer classes are free, but space is limited so registration is required. Some classes have pre-requisites. In addition to computer classes, open lab sessions are offered and do not require registration. For more information, call 281-478-7208.

- **Introduction to Computers** - Become familiar with computers and technical terminology, plus get comfortable using a mouse, opening software applications, and other basic skills.

- **Browsing the Web** - Learn the basic skills of browsing the world wide web. Topics include search engines, simple search techniques, security precautions, and the basics of e-mail.
- **Using Social Networks** - Learn the basics of social networking sites and how they are used. Websites to be discussed include Facebook, Pinterest, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.
- **Microsoft Word 2010 Basics** - Become familiar with the 2010 version of Word and learn how to create and edit basic Word documents, including resumes and letters.
- **Microsoft Excel 2010 Basics** - Become familiar with the 2010 version of Excel and learn how to create and edit basic spreadsheets, and use simple formulas and functions.
- **Microsoft PowerPoint 2010 Basics** - Become familiar with the 2010 version of PowerPoint and learn how to create a presentation using themes, illustrations, transitions, and animation.
- **Basic Genealogy** - Learn how to use the library's resources to research your family history. Become familiar with Ancestry Library Edition and HeritageQuest Online.
- **Find a Job** - Become familiar with the resources available at the library to assist you with exploring career opportunities, creating or updating a resume and cover letter, preparing for an interview, and more.
- **Open Lab Session** - One-on-one assistance for Microsoft Office programs, Windows 7, and more. Our reference librarians can assist with docu-

ment formatting and electronic resources. Feel free to bring your laptop from home.

- **Genealogy Lab** - One-on-one assistance in your search for family history. Basic Genealogy is a pre-requisite for this lab.

Career Resources

Join us for a new series of classes that will help job seekers. You will be introduced to online resources and learn about resume formatting, interviewing tips, job hunting, and more. Registration is required. Call 281-478-7208 for details.

New Arrivals for Adults

March

- NYPD Red 3 by James Patterson & Marshall Karp
- Mrs. Grant and Madame Jule by Jennifer Chiaverini
- The Stranger by Harlen Coben
- The Buried Giant by Kazuo Ishiguro

April

- Last One Home by Debbie Macomber
- Your Next Breath by Iris Johansen
- Every Fifteen Minutes by Lisa Scottoline
- The Bone Tree by Greg Iles

May

- Promise by Robert Crais
- The Proposal at Siesta Key by Shelley Shepard Gray
- The Murderer's Daughter by Jonathan Kellerman
- The Wright Brothers by David McCullough

Library Hours

Mon. & Wed. 10am-6pm
Tues. & Thurs. 10am-9pm
Fri. & Sat. 10am-5pm

Tiffany's Tips

Rain Water Harvesting

Collecting rain water is a simple process that has been practiced for many years. Some home improvement stores now carry ready-made barrels, as well as kits that connect the barrel to the downspout on your house. You can also make your own rain barrel for about \$10. Be sure your rain barrel is sealed with a lid or mesh screen to keep insects out. Study your roofline before you install your rain barrel. You need to determine which part of the roof collects the most water so you can install the barrel at that particular location. It takes about half an hour or less of steady rain to fill one 50-gallon rain barrel. You can even link rain barrels together if you have enough space in your yard to store them. Linking the barrels together means you will be able to store plenty of water to irrigate your plants.



Tiffany McGallian, Park Operations Coordinator

Next Step Transition Center

Monday - Friday, 9am-3pm, \$25 per day, registration is required, Deer Park Community Center The Next Step Transition Center is a day habilitation program for individuals with developmental disabilities, ages 18 & over. It is a structured program that utilizes social, educational, vocational, and recreational activities to provide opportunities for integration into the community. Next Step also offers classes in art, music, theatre arts, cooking, and more. Skills in a variety of areas, including personal care, communication, organization, money, and functional reading will be learned and reinforced through different activities and games. Participants will also experience recreation and leisure time to encourage group interaction and socialization. Our mission is to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for individuals with developmental dis-

abilities, support and encourage individual self-advocacy and independence, promote independence through daily life skills, as well as vocational and educational training, and to engage in community-based activities and services in order to encourage individuals to become participating members of the community. Contact Traci Johnston at tracijohnston66@gmail.com or 832-865-1859 for more details.

Aquatic Jobs

We are searching for individuals to fill multiple positions at the Dow Park Pool this summer, including lifeguards, cashiers, swim instructors, and pool managers. You'll be trusted with the lives of others so you must be extremely responsible, attentive, and patient, as well as be able to perform the necessary duties of the job in the summer heat. Available positions are posted at www.deerparktx.gov/hr.

Master's Swim Program

Monday-Friday (starting in May), 5:30am, for ages 18 & over, Dow Park Pool The City of Deer Park Aquatics team will offer a master's program for adult swimmers this summer. The program will target a wide range of individual goals, including recreation, fitness, and competitive training. For more information, contact Lacy Stole at lstole@deerparktx.org.

Fencing: Beginner's Foil

Tuesdays, 4:30-5:30pm, for ages 12 & over, \$40 per month, Earl Dunn Gym Racquetball Courts, Instructor John Trojanowski A basic foil fencing course designed to introduce beginners to the rules and convention of foil fencing with emphasis on footwork, blade work, and safety. Classes begin with footwork drills, followed by blade work practice, and end with supervised bouts between fencers. Students physically exercise while playing a game that keeps the mind active. Equipment is provided.

Deer Park Karate

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, for ages 4 & over, \$40 per month, Deer Park Community Center, Instructor Manuel Diaz* We teach Taekwondo and Shorin-Ryu. Learn a variety of defensive and offensive maneuvers. Tiny Dragons (ages 4-6) 5-5:45pm Introductory Class (ages 7-12) 5:45-6:30pm Beginners' Class (ages 7-12) 6:40-7:40pm Teen/Adult Class (ages 13 & over) 7:45-8:45pm

*Price indicates early registration fee. The fee increases by \$10 after the 5th of the month.

Parks & Recreation

Friday Night Fun Nights

Fridays, 6:30-8:30pm, for ages 6 & over, Deer Park Community Center Game Room Join the game room staff for a little friendly competition and free popcorn every Friday. Anyone with a valid game room membership is welcome to participate.

Ladies Low Impact Aerobics

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 8:30-9:30am, for adults, \$20 per month, Deer Park Community Center, Instructor Bobbie Butler* A cardiovascular exercise class for sculpting, weight training, and elevating your heart rate.

Pilates

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6:30-7:30pm, for teens and adults, \$20 per month for 1 day per week or \$40 per month* for 2 days per week, Deer Park Community Center, Instructor Manny Rodriguez* Strengthen and tone your body, better your posture, regain balance, and burn calories.

Yoga for Health

Tuesdays, Sessions: Mar. 3-24, Mar. 31-Apr. 21 & Apr. 28-May 19, 6:45-7:45pm, for adults, \$35 per session, Avon Recreation Center, Instructor Joni Kyle Yoga is a noncompetitive, non-judgmental form of mind and body exercise that develops strength, cultivates flexibility, tones muscles, improves balance and coordination, and eliminates toxins from the body. Yoga also helps reduce tension and stress by soothing the central nervous system.

Zumba

Wednesdays, Sessions: Mar. 4-25 & Apr. 8-29, 7:15-8:15pm, for adults, \$25 per session, Maxwell Adult Center, Instructor Ana Moisa Zumba is a high energy cardio class that com-

bines dance and fitness moves with Latin rhythms. It's taught through visual cues so you don't have to be a dancer to join the fun.

*Price indicates early registration fee. The fee increases by \$10 after the 5th of the month.

Healthy Living

Keep Up With Your New Year's Resolution

It's estimated that 90% of Americans make new year's resolutions. However, only 6% of Americans actually stick to them. Did you make a resolution to get healthy or lose weight this year? If so, you're not alone. Many people start off the year with good intentions, but they don't really know where to begin. Below are a few tips that may help you keep up with your new year's resolution for health and fitness.

Keep a Journal. Writing down your food intake and exercise expenditure is one of the best ways to keep track of what you're doing each day. Simply knowing this information keeps you focused on your goal. Having to write down those Hershey's kisses you are craving will keep you from eating them. I personally recommend Loseit.com, an online tracking system that allows you to log what you eat and activities you do, while keeping track of your goals, weight loss, calories, etc. However, using an online tracking system is not required. You can simply keep a notebook to write everything down.



Set a Goal. Before you can figure out where you want to go, you need to know where you are at. Evaluate your eating habits so you'll know how many calories you are taking in. Then plan to eat 3,500 calories (equals to 1 lb.) less per week. Essentially, by consuming 500 calories less or burning off 500 calories through exercise each day of the week will elicit a 1 lb. loss per week. I am not suggesting strictly counting calories forever, but it's a good place to start.

Be Active. Get up and start moving because any movement is better than none. Simply do what you can, even if it is just a 20-minute walk at lunchtime. For those days when you can't get active outdoors, have a backup plan, such as an exercise video so you can workout in the comfort of your living room.



Lacy Stole, Athletics/Aquatics Supervisor

Parks & Recreation

Self Defense for Women

Saturdays, Mar. 7-28, 12-1:30pm, for ages 13 & over, \$50 for all 4 classes, Deer Park Community Center, Instructor Manuel Diaz Learning self defense is one of the most effective ways to improve your sense of security. This program teaches defensive and offensive maneuvers, basic blocking, and striking techniques, that are easy to learn, remember, and execute.

Movie in the Park

Mar. 7, Apr. 4 & May 2 Watch a family friendly movie at Dow Park on the 1st Saturday of every month for free! For movie titles and showtimes, go to www.deerparktx.gov/parksandrec.

Spring Break Camp

Mar. 16-20, 7:30am-5:30pm, for ages 6-11, \$100 per child for residents or \$110 per child for non-residents, Claude Burgess Recreation Center Join us for 5 days of pure fun! There will be field trips, dodgeball, arts & crafts, cooking, and more. Limited to the first 45 participants.

Market Days

Mar. 21, Apr. 18 & May 16, 9am-1pm, Dow Park Stroll through Dow Park every 3rd Saturday of the month. Help support local businesses by shopping for home-made goods and ready-made items. Admission and parking is free. To become a vendor, contact Betty Geck at marketdays@yahoo.com.

NRA Basic Pistol Instruction

Mar. 21 & Apr. 18, 8am-12pm, for ages 21 & over, \$100 per person, Deer Park Community Center, Certified NRA Instructor Gary Garza This is a basic pistol instruction class for beginners and those who

need a refresher course. You will learn about the fundamentals of shooting, parts of a pistol, ammunition, loading and cleaning your gun, as well as safety. The course fee does not include range fees, the cost of ammunition, and the gun rental.



Egg Hunt & Festivities

Saturday, March 28

Come meet the Easter Bunny at the Deer Park Community Center and Dow Park!

- *Breakfast with the Easter Bunny (8:15-8:45am)* - Kolaches and exclusive time with the Easter Bunny. Tickets are required and must be purchased by Mar. 16.
- *Petting zoo, pony rides, wagon rides, and face painting (9am-12pm)* - Nominal fee varies by activity.
- *Bunny Bingo (9am)* - Parents are welcome to assist their children. 25¢ per card
- *Sidewalk Chalk Picture Contest (9am)* - Draw an Easter-themed masterpiece on the sidewalk. Awards will be given immediately after egg hunt for 1st through 3rd place in each category: I did it myself (ages 6 & under), ages 7 to 12, and family (at least one adult with one or more children). \$1 per sidewalk square
- *Rubber Ducky Races (9-10:15am)* - Send your little quacker to the finish line with the power of water. Free

- *Carrot Pull (9-10:15am, while supplies last)* - Rabbit's garden is full of prizes. Everyone wins! \$1 per pull
- *Easter Egg Hunt (10:30am)* - Parents may only assist children 6 months to 2 years old. Aggressive parents will not be tolerated. Over 15,000 toy and candy filled eggs. Some eggs contain a certificate redeemable for a prize. The prizes are for children 6 months to 9 years old and are limited to 1 per child. There is no guarantee that every child will get a prize. In case of inclement weather, the egg hunt will be moved into the Earl Dunn Gym and scheduled by age groups.
- *Art Park Players Rockin' Cowgirls (11am-12pm)* - The Rockin' Cowgirls will rock the pavilion with singing, dancing, games, and giveaways!
- *Pooch Hunt (2pm)* - Don't forget about your 4-legged friends! Take your dog on a leash to Ella & Friends Dog Park and let them hunt, too. In case of inclement weather, the pooch hunt will be moved into the Jimmy Burke Activity Center.



Parks & Recreation

Ladies First - Mamma Mia! at the Hobby Center

April 17, 6:30pm, for ages 21 & over, \$70 per person, meet at Deer Park Community Center Do you find yourself needing a break from the demands of everyday life? Are you looking for a way to disconnect from your hectic schedule and take some time for yourself. For one night, forget about your to-do list and join a group of ladies looking to do the exact same thing!



2K9 Fun Run & Pet Day

April 18, \$10 to participate in 2K9 Fun Run, Ella & Friends Dog Park Bring your dog and enjoy a day of pet activities. Rescue organizations, kennel clubs, veterinarians, and pet businesses will be there, too. Go to www.deerparktx.gov/parksandrec for a schedule of the day's events.



Summer Youth Basketball League

Saturdays, 8am, for ages 7 & over, \$50 per child (includes jersey), DPISD Gyms We now offer a mini summer youth basketball league! The number of teams in the league will depend on the number of volunteer coaches available for the season. Teams will be determined by a blind draft. The children will be divided by age, regardless of the

school they attend. Practice begins in May and will be held twice per week. Games will be held on Saturdays for 8 weeks starting in June. Registration ends May 1st.

Outdoor Family Camp Out

May 2 at 9:30am to May 3 at 11am, for all ages, Huntsville State Park

The camp out is brought to you by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. and the Deer Park Parks & Recreation Dept. Join us for this overnight camping adventure! This program is being offered free of charge for families signing up through the Deer Park Parks & Recreation Dept. thanks to a generous grant from the National Park Foundation.

Spring Dance Recital

May 23, 4pm & 7:30pm, \$5 per ticket, Performing Arts Center at Deer Park High School South Campus, Instructor Alice Miller The Art Park Dancers will be performing *Pinocchio* at this year's spring dance recital.

Summer Concert Kickoff

May 29, 6-9pm, free for all ages, Dow Park Bring the whole family and enjoy the start of a new Concert in the Park series.

Youth Flag Football League

Saturdays (starting Sept. 12), 8am, for ages 6 & over, \$60 per child (includes jersey), Adult Softball Complex Youth Flag Football is an alternative for parents who hesitate allowing their children to play tackle football. Volunteer coaches, which are often parents of the players, help run each team. There are 2 scheduled practices per week and games are on Saturday mornings. Registration begins May 1st.



Quick Start Kayaking

April 24 & May 22, 6:30-8:30pm, for ages 10 & over, \$10 per person, Dow Park Pool, Instructors Debra Culp & Taylor Sandavol Learn the basics of kayaking, the parts of a boat, how to board, principles of paddling, strokes, and maneuvers. Course will be taught by certified American Canoe Association instructors. Gear will be provided.

Kayaking Road Trip

May 30, 7am-1pm, for ages 10 & over, \$10 per person, meet at Deer Park Community Center, Instructors Debra Culp & Taylor Sandavol Let's take a road trip around the Houston area and visit different Kayaking destinations. Gear will be provided. Children ages 10 to 12 must register and be accompanied by an adult.

DPTV



Watch episodes of the Texas Parks & Wildlife television series on DPTV every Tuesday at 7:30pm. Encore episodes air on Saturdays at 10:30am. You'll be inspired to get outdoors and enjoy all of the adventures Texas parks have to offer. DPTV is available on Comcast channel 16 and digital cable channel 99, plus AT&T U-verse channel 99.

Art Park Players

3rd Annual Potluck Playfest

Mar. 21, 6:30pm Meal, 7pm Show
\$15 Meal & Show Tickets

It's time for the annual Potluck Playfest, an evening of multiple original short plays produced, directed, and rehearsed over the course of 24 hours. If you are interested in participating in the productions as an actor, director, or writer, please contact Susan Mele at 281-478-7288 or smele@deerparktx.org.



Always . . . Patsy Cline

April 24 & 25, May 1, 2, 8 & 9
7pm Meal, 8pm Curtain
April 26 & May 3
1pm Meal, 2pm Curtain
\$25 Meal & Show Tickets
\$15 Show Only Tickets

It's back by overwhelming request! *Always . . . Patsy Cline* is a tribute lovingly told through the eyes of Patsy's best friend and biggest fan, Louise. It is a touching musical that follows the life of Patsy Cline, from live radio to her fame at the Grand Ole Opry to her tragic death. You'll enjoy heart-felt renditions of *I Fall To Pieces*, *Crazy*, and more. Meal to be catered by Azalea Catering.



To purchase tickets to any of our shows, call the Art Park Players Box Office at 281-794-2448. Unless otherwise noted, productions are held at the Municipal Court & Theatre Building located at 1302 Center Street.

Employee Awards

Supervisor of the Month

October (2014)

Daryl Denzer, I.T. Services



Support Staff

4th Quarter (2014)

Sheila Plovovich, Police Dept.



Field Staff

4th Quarter (2014)

Caleb Hollingsworth, Parks & Rec.



Armando Diaz, Public Works Dept.



Lincoln Bedrich, Public Works Dept.



Billing & Collections

Conveniently pay your water bill online, by mail, via electronic draft, or in person. We have a drive-thru window, as well as a 24-hour payment drop box available at City Hall. If your services have been disconnected due to non-payment, you cannot pay online to restore service. To begin the reconnection process, payment must be made in person at the counter or the drive-thru window. Call 281-478-7221 for more details.

Notify Me



Stay informed with news and announcements from the City of Deer Park by joining the e-mail subscription lists of your choice. Go to www.deerparktx.gov and select *Notify Me*.

Council Actions

November 2014

- Authorized the purchase of motorized gates and perimeter fencing around the City Maintenance Facility.
- Accepted the quarterly investment report for July through September 2014.
- Approved an ordinance amending Schedule B of the Code of Ordinances for solid waste fees.
- Approved an ordinance adopting an employee termination appeal procedure.
- Approved an ordinance accepting the Industrial District Agreements.
- Approved an ordinance amending Schedule B of the Code of Ordinances to increase pipeline permit and annual fees, and adding a transfer fee.
- Approved a change order for the City Hall parking lot addition in the amount of \$5,114.37.
- Authorized the purchase of a hydraulic mud pump 20 with trailer for the Street Maintenance Dept.
- Authorized the purchase of a 2015 Chevrolet 1500 Silverado for the Planning and Development Dept. through the Houston-Galveston Area Council Cooperative Purchasing Program.
- Authorized the purchase of a 45-ft semi trailer with walking floor and hydraulic top for Sanitation through the Buy-Board Purchasing Cooperative.
- Approved an agreement between the City of Deer Park and the Griggs Group Inc. for a new gun range.
- Authorized a recommendation from the Historical Committee to purchase 2 museum cases to be placed at the library.

December 2014

- Awarded the bid for Traffic Signal Improvements at Center St. and Pasadena Blvd. to Traf-Tex, Inc. in the amount of \$34,909.
- Authorized the purchase of 3 Stryker EMS Power Load Cot Fastening Systems for the Deer Park Fire Control Prevention and Emergency Medical Services District.
- Accepted the Quarterly Financial Report for the 4th quarter ending September 30, 2014.
- Approved the repair of a 6" water line pipe through pipe bursting from PM Construction & Rehab, LLC through the Houston-Galveston Area Council Cooperative Purchasing Program.
- Approved a temporary reduction in the animal adoption fees through the Christmas and New Year holidays.
- Approved an agreement with Langford Engineering for services related to the South Lift Station.
- Appointed a City of Deer Park Representative to the 2015 Houston-Galveston Area Council General Assembly and Board of Directors.
- Approved an application for Pasadena Taxi Company to operate a taxi cab business in Deer Park.
- Approved an ordinance for a Specific Use Permit to construct off street parking accessory at 317 W. San Augustine.
- Approved an ordinance amending the Tax Abatement Ordinance No. 3537 regarding the City's Tax Abatement Program.
- Approved an ordinance accepting the Industrial District Agreements.

- Approved a resolution updating Chapter 6, Section 6.10 of the Employee Personnel Policy Manual.
- Awarded the bid for the Norwood Street Reconstruction Project to Mar-Con Services in the amount of \$1,354,818.10.
- Awarded the proposal for the 2015 Totally Texas Festival to the Deer Park Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$33,000.
- Awarded the proposal for the Strategic Technology Master Plan Update to Sciens Consulting in the amount of \$24,800.
- Authorized staff to seek bids for the construction of Phase I of the Waste Water Plant project.
- Authorized staff to seek bids to replace the 8th St. bridge spanning Harris County Flood Control channel.
- Authorized staff to negotiate an agreement with an architectural firm for the design of renovations/addition to the Jimmy Burke Activity Center.
- Appointed a Type B Sales Tax Study Committee.
- Approved an agreement with the Youth Sports Organization for 2015.
- Approved a resolution to support increased funding for the Texas Recreation and Parks Account Local Grant Programs and the Texas State Park System.
- Approved an ordinance appointing 4 members to the Library Board of Trustees.
- Approved an ordinance amending Schedule B to address Chapter 74 Parks & Recreation fees.

Council Actions

January 2015

- Authorized the purchase and installation of audio equipment for the theatre (Parks & Recreation Dept.).
- Approved a change order to the contract with DT Construction for the Deer Park Gateway Project in the amount of \$5,567.30.
- Approved a PCI Security Policy and Procedures to comply with applicable security requirements affiliated with processing credit card payments.
- Renewed the agreement with Houston Community Newspapers.
- Renewed the landfill contract with Waste Management.
- Approved an agreement with T.F. Harper & Associates LP for Phase I of the renovations of the Minchen Athletic Complex.
- Approved an allocation of bond fund expenditures for upgrades to the Deer Park Community Center.
- Approved an ordinance amending Section 94-2 and 94-81(f) of the Code of Ordinances relating to the requirement for a police officer or flagger for lane closures.
- Authorized staff to apply for a FY 2015-2016 Selective Traffic Enforcement Program grant.
- Approved a recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission to call a Joint Public Hearing to rezone 3.69 acres of the remainder of La Porte Outlot 614 on East Blvd. from General Commercial to Highway Service to construct a hotel.
- Approved an ordinance amending the Employee Classification Scale for the addition of a PR/Marketing Specialist position.
- Approved an ordinance accepting the Industrial District Agreements.
- Approved travel expenses for members of City Council to attend the 2015 National League of Cities Conference in Washington, D.C. March 6-11, 2015.
- Approved the purchase of a library document station in the amount of \$9,021.
- Accepted the completion of the material bins at the Luella Ave. Service Center. Final cost was \$46,775.
- Approved the library's grant application for the 2015 Texas Book Festival's Collection Enhancement Grant.
- Approved modifications to the Capital Improvement projects proposed by Touchstone Golf and approved the requested funds for the city's portion of the tee renovations.
- Authorized staff to write-off delinquent Emergency Medical Services accounts.
- Approved a recommendation from the Historical Committee to authorize an allowance of \$1,000 for operating expenses.
- Approved a resolution in support of the proposed North East Hike and Bike Trail and the application for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Recreational Trail Grant.
- Approved an ordinance confirming the appointment of Director of Emergency Services, Robert Hemminger.

Garage Sales

Garage sale permits are required in Deer Park. The permit fee is \$5 and may be obtained at City Hall. A garage sale sign permit is available for an additional \$5. A \$25 deposit is also required. A garage sale permit can be issued only once within a 6-month period for the same address or same person and cannot exceed 10 consecutive days.

Facebook

The City of Deer Park is on Facebook! To connect, go to www.deerparktx.gov/facebook.

Recycle

We offer single-stream recycling at the transfer station! Residents can recycle their paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, and metal cans by dropping them all into one single bin. Sorting your recyclables is no longer necessary. The guidelines to ensure that quality material goes into the recycling bins can be found at www.deerparktx.gov/recycle. When you recycle, be aware that food waste, plastic bags, and polystyrene foam cups and containers are not acceptable. Improper recycling can slow down the process or even ruin the entire load of recyclables. The Transfer Station is located at 610 Underwood Road and open Monday through Friday, 8am to 6pm, and Saturday, 9am to 6pm. For more information, call 281-478-7213.

Register Today - Before a Storm is on its way!
Transportation Assistance Registry

If you will need help evacuating in the event of a hurricane, please dial 2-1-1 to register in advance for a ride. Dial 2-1-1 as soon as possible, if you:

- Have a disability or special health care need and require assistance to get out.
- Cannot drive and cannot arrange for transportation.
- Do not have a vehicle and you have no one else to help you evacuate.

The 2-1-1 registration process gives local emergency planners a better idea of the number of individuals who may need assistance, and the type of assistance they may need. The State of Texas will provide your information back to local emergency planners so they can plan accordingly.

Once you are registered, your information is safe in the state database. There is no need to call either 2-1-1 or your local emergency management office back to verify registration. This includes people who registered last year. Unless there is a change to your information, you do not need to re-register.

You will need the following information to register:

- Name
- Address
- Phone number (There is only room for one number, so please give the best number to call.)
- Contact name
- Contact relationship (aunt, brother, son, friend, landlord, etc.)
- Contact phone number
- Do you need transportation? (yes or no)
- Do you have any pets or service animals? (yes or no)
- Do you have a special medical need? (Describe the type of need you have.)



Save Your Life. Dial 2-1-1 To Register In Advance For A Ride.

Report A Concern

To report a concern or issue that needs our attention, complete this form and return it to:
City Manager, 710 E. San Augustine, Deer Park, Texas 77536.

You can also submit the appropriate form online at www.deerparktx.gov.

Together we can make Deer Park a better place!

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Best time to call: _____

Location of concern: _____

Describe the issue: _____



P.O. Box 700
Deer Park, TX 77536

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The Mission of the City of Deer Park is to deliver exemplary municipal services that provide the community a high quality of life consistent with our history, culture, and unique character.

General Election

The City of Deer Park will conduct a General Election on May 9, 2015 to elect Mayor and Council Positions 1, 2 & 3.

Register to Vote

You must be registered to vote by April 9, 2015 if you wish to vote in the May 9th election. Voter registration cards are available at City Hall, the Deer Park Public Library, and the Harris County Clerk's Office.

Early Voting

Early voting will be conducted in the City Secretary's Office at City Hall, 710 East San Augustine St. as follows:

April 27 & 28, 7am-7pm
April 29 & 30, May 1, 4 & 5, 8am-5pm

Election Day - May 9

On election day, voting will be conducted at the Deer Park Community Center, Room 12, 610 East San Augustine St. from 7am-7pm.

Adopt-a-Pet

Dogs and cats are available for adoption at the Deer Park Animal Shelter. There is a \$50 adoption fee, plus you must prepay for the spaying or neutering of the animal and a rabies vaccination. To view the pets currently available for adoption, visit the shelter Mon.-Fri., 8am-5pm or Sat. 8am-12pm or go to www.facebook.com/DeerParkTX.AnimalShelter. For more information, call 281-478-7274.



Streetlights



CenterPoint Energy maintains streetlights throughout our area. To report a street light outage, call 713-207-2222 or visit www.centerpointenergy.com/cehe/support/streetlight. You will be asked to provide the 6-digit stenciled number on the pole to identify the exact location of the pole with the issue.

